



COUNTY OF MARIN NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Liz Lewis (415) 499-7226

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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County of Marin Public Works Department receives grant to initiate a Landowner Assistance Program for Salmon Restoration in the San Geronimo Valley.

San Rafael, CA – Thanks to a grant from the California State Coastal Conservancy, Marin County Public Works is now ready to kick-off a Landowners Assistance Program in the San Geronimo Valley focused on protecting and restoring critical salmon habitat. The \$98,335 grant award will be used to help landowners with assessments of their properties, to identify measures which they can take to help salmon and protect their property from erosion. Over 50 landowners have signed up for this assistance program, and a waiting list exists should additional grant funds be received. The County of Marin is administering the program in partnership with the San Geronimo Planning Group and the University of California Cooperative Extension. All the landowner assessments will be conducted by a third party technical team, which will work directly with the property owner to develop recommendations and designs for implementing restoration actions on private property.

San Geronimo Valley supports one of the most resilient populations of Coho salmon on the central California Coast but their numbers have declined in recent years. Supervisor Kinsey is supportive of the program noting that; “We all need to work together at this point to ensure that the coho salmon that do return to the San Geronimo Valley are provided viable habitat in which to spawn and raise their young.”

In June 2010, the County of Marin Board of Supervisors approved and funded a comprehensive program in the San Geronimo Watershed, which includes the assignment of a full-time planner to the Valley to support local efforts to implement the Salmon Enhancement Plan. According to Farhad Mansourian, Public Works Director, “the San Geronimo Valley Landowner Assistance program is another positive step forward to restoring this vital resource”.